

CELESTIA P. HARTT.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 509.]

MARCH 29, 1860.

Mr POTTLE, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of Mrs. Celestia P. Hartt, beg leave to report :

It appears by the papers in this case that Celestia P. Hartt is the widow of Samuel T. Hart, deceased, who was a naval constructor in the Gosport yard; that in 1854 the said Samuel T. Hartt was the inventor of a screw for a gun elevator, known as "Hartt's Screw Elevator," which was found to be a useful invention, and was adopted and used by government, and now appears to be in general use by the government. The letter of Commander A. H. Foote shows that this screw was placed on board the United States ship Portsmouth, during her cruise in the East Indies and China seas, and was subjected to the severest test in the discharge of seven hundred guns, loaded with shells, in the attack of the Canton barrier forts, and so well did it answer the purpose for which it was intended, that Commander Foote, in his despatches giving an account of that engagement, makes the following mention of it: "I am happy to add that the new elevating screws of Constructor Hartt, with which her guns (*i e.*, guns of the Portsmouth) are fitted, stood the severe test of the heavy firing during the several actions to my entire satisfaction."

Numerous testimonials from naval officers and constructors seem to place beyond a doubt the advantage to the government and utility of this invention.

It further appears that Mr. Hartt died without taking out letters patent for his invention, and his widow now appeals to government for relief for herself and children, by asking that something may be paid to her for the advantages which the government has derived and is likely to receive from her husband's said invention.

As this appears to the committee to have been an invention the whole advantages of which have of necessity been received by the government, and as the inventor, if he had lived, was clearly entitled to a patent, which would have protected him, your committee believe that it is but an act of justice to make some compensation for said invention. They therefore ask leave to report a bill giving to the petitioner the sum of fifteen hundred dollars, and recommend that it do pass.

CELESTINE T. HART.

(The accompanying report is herewith submitted.)

MARCH 25, 1855.

Mr. Porter, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, reads the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to which was referred the petition of
Celestine T. Hart, say have to report:

It appears by the papers in this case that Celestine T. Hart is the
widow of Samuel T. Hart, deceased, who was a naval officer in
the United States Navy; that in 1834 the said Samuel T. Hart was the
inventor of a new and improved method of sailing a vessel, and was
granted a patent for the same, which was found to be a useful invention, and was
used by the Government, and now appears to be in general use by
the Government. The letter of Commissioner A. B. Fiske shows that
this patent was placed on board the United States ship Portsmouth,
during her cruise in the East Indies and China seas, and was sub-
mitted to the secret test in the discharge of seven hundred guns,
which was the result of the attack of the Canton harbor fort, and so
well did it answer the purpose for which it was intended, that Com-
mander Foote, in his dispatches giving an account of that engage-
ment, makes the following mention of it: "I am happy to add that
the new sailing method of Commander Hart, which was given
(to the Government) and fitted, stood the severe test of the
heavy firing during the several actions to my entire satisfaction."
Numerous testimonials from naval officers and commanders seem to
place beyond a doubt the advantage to the Government and utility of
this invention.

It further appears that Mr. Hart died without taking out letters
patent for his invention, and his widow now appears to Government
petitioned for herself and children, by asking that something may be
paid to her for the advantage which the Government has derived and
is likely to receive from her husband's said invention.

As it appears to the Committee to have been an invention of
whole advantage of which have of necessity been received by the
Government, and as the inventor, if he had lived, was clearly entitled
to a patent, which would have protected him from competition for said
invention. That the Government has derived a benefit from the
invention, the sum of fifteen hundred dollars, and recommend that it
do pass.